

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-94 (Canceled)

95. (Currently Amended) A polypeptide comprising a portion but not all of the extracellular domain of anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) as encoded by ~~GenBank accession number U66559~~ SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said portion comprises amino acid positions 368 to 447 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein said polypeptide ~~is capable of binding~~ binds human pleiotrophin (PTN).

96. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 95, wherein said polypeptide is soluble.

97. (Cancelled).

98. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 95, wherein said portion consists essentially of amino acid positions 368 to 447.

99. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 95 bound to PTN.

100. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 95 immobilized on a surface.

101. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 95, 97 or 98.

102. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 101, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

103. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 101, wherein said polypeptide is present in said composition in a therapeutically effective amount.

104. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 101, further comprising PTN.

105. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 101, further comprising PTN and a test substance that blocks the binding of PTN with ALK.

106. (Previously Presented) A method of screening the ability of a test substance to block binding of PTN with ALK, comprising comparing a measurement of the binding of PTN with the polypeptide of claim 95, 97 or 98 obtained in the presence of the substance, with a control measurement to obtain a value.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said control measurement is the measurement of binding of PTN with said polypeptide obtained in the absence of said substance.

108. (Previously Presented) A method of screening the ability of a test substance to block binding of PTN with ALK, comprising:

obtaining a first measurement of the binding of PTN with the polypeptide of claim 95, 97 or 98; obtaining a second measurement of the binding of PTN with the polypeptide of claim 95, 97 or 98, wherein said first measurement is performed in the absence of the substance and said second measurement is performed in the presence of said substance; and comparing said first measurement to said second measurement to obtain a value.

109. (Previously Presented) A method of screening the ability of a test substance to block binding of PTN with ALK, comprising:

incubating the substance with PTN and the polypeptide of claim 5, 97 or 98 under conditions suitable for binding of PTN to said polypeptide; obtaining a measurement of the binding; and comparing the measurement of said binding with a control measurement, to obtain a value.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 109, wherein the control measurement is the measurement of binding of PTN with the polypeptide of claim 95, 97 or 98 obtained in the absence of said substance.

111. (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting binding of PTN with ALK, comprising contacting PTN with the polypeptide of claim 95, 97 or 98 in the presence of ALK and under conditions suitable for binding of PTN with said polypeptide.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein ALK is expressed by a cell.

113. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 112, wherein said cell is a tumor cell.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111 wherein said ALK is immobilized to a surface.

115. (Previously Presented) A method for blocking ALK activity, comprising contacting a cell expressing ALK with the polypeptide of claim 95, 97 or 98 in the presence of PTN and under conditions suitable to inhibit binding of PTN with said ALK, thereby blocking ALK activity.

116. (Previously Presented) A method for blocking ALK activity, comprising contacting ALK with the polypeptide of claim 95, 97 or 98 in the presence of PTN and under conditions suitable to inhibit binding of PTN with said ALK, thereby blocking ALK activity.

117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115, wherein said cell is a tumor cell.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 116, wherein said ALK is immobilized on a surface.